

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05557 021616Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPTA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8251
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UNCLAS PANAMA 05557

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PN
SUBJECT: "HIGH-LEVEL" POLITICAL COMMISSION TAKES SHAPE

REF: PANAMA 5130

1. "ALL INTERESTED POLITICAL SECTORS" HAVE BEEN INVITED TO APPOINT A MAXIMUM OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SO-CALLED HIGH-LEVEL COMMISSION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS ESTABLISHED TO DISCUSS AND DRAW UP RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLITICAL REFORM, INCLUDING THE LEGALIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES. A STATEMENT ISSUED ON JULY 29 BY TORRIJOS' ADVISER ROMULO ESCOBAR, EDUCATION MINISTER ARISTIDES ROYO, AND FOREIGN MINISTER NICOLAS GONZALEZ-REVILLA, WHO HEAD UP THE COMMISSION FOR THE GOVERNMENT, ANNOUNCED THAT THE COMMISSION WILL MEET DURING THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE AUGUST 6 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS.

2. TO DATE, ONLY TWO POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMISSION -- THE LIBERAL PARTY, WHICH ON JULY 31 ANNOUNCED ITS TWO REPRESENTATIVES AS DRS. ARNULFO ESCALONA RIOS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 PANAMA 05557 021616Z

CESAR PEREIRA BURGOS, AND THE AGRARIAN LABOR PARTY, WHICH HAS JUST COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK. THE PARTIES OF THE "UNIFIED OPPOSITION" -- THE PANAMENISTA, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, PLUS THE DEMOCRATIC INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT -- HAVE NOT YET STATED OFFICIAL POSITIONS REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMISSION (REPORTED REFTEL), BUT HAVE MADE

NOTHING BUT UNHAPPY NOISES ABOUT IT. JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Subject: \"HIGH-LEVEL\" POLITICAL COMMISSION TAKES SHAPE
TAGS: PINT, PN
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